The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

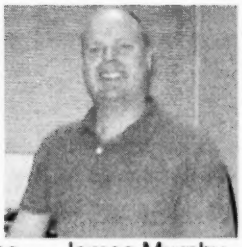
CASLT/ACPLS

FOUR OUTSTANDING SECOND LANGUAGE EDUCATORS RECOGNIZED FOR INNOVATIVE WORK

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Timma Blain

Evelyn Moores


James Murphy

Julie Rousseau

OTTAWA, Ontario, May 11, 2007 – The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) recently awarded four members with the 2007 H.H. Stern Award.

Timma Blain, Prince George, BC recognizes the challenge facing Core French teachers who have little experience with French. In response, she created classroom resources connecting teachers' existing knowledge of balanced literacy with teaching French. Her ability to demystify second language instruction is essential to creating an effective and cooperative second language learning environment.

Teacher Evelyn Moores of Whitefish, ON, pioneered a music CD of native language songs for Anishaabemwin kindergarten children and teachers. The 15 year veteran of Biidaaban Elementary School recognized the need for native language resources that also connect with the provincial curriculum. Teachers, regardless of fluency, can integrate these simple songs into native culture lessons.

James Murphy, a French consultant and teacher of Stephenville, NL uses technology to engage students in online learning. His use of creative Web resources enables many secondary schools to access distance learning for Core French programs. Through their French Web site, www.cdli.ca/french, students engage and interact in an online environment, extending their learning through cultural activities.

Educator Julie Rousseau, Abbotsford, BC knows the challenge for French Immersion students to improve literacy skills, especially when their parents are unable to help them. Rousseau worked with teachers and students to develop classroom Web sites and to create audio Podcasts. The Podcasts are accessible from students' homes, effectively taking the teacher home with them. Students can practice reading, repeat vocabulary, expressions and songs, with the benefit of listening to their own teacher.

"Educators are finding ground-breaking ways to reach students, beyond the classroom and making second language learning a comprehensive experience," states Miles Turnbull, CASLT President. "Here are four exemplary teachers who recognized challenges, and rather than feeling limited, they reached beyond the situation to enrich the learning environment."
The award is named in memory of Dr. H.H. David Stern in recognition of his contribution to second language instruction in Canada. The award includes a grant towards the furthering of the recipient's efforts in innovative classroom practices supporting second language learning.

Established in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) increases awareness, appreciation and understanding of the importance of second language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators. See www.caslt.org for more information.

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